Rise in exports

105. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's exports have shown a rising trend during the last three months; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The growth rate in exports, which was 16.7 per cent during the first six months i.e., April—September, 1986, stepped up to 17.3 per cent by the close of the nine month period i.e. April—December, 1986, when compared to the corresponding periods of the previous year.

Chinese arms assistance to insurgents in North Eastern States

106. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware the insurgents operating in North Eastern States are getting arms assistance and training from China.

(b) whether it is a fact that the insurgents have been using Burmese territory for transit to China for obtaining weapons and other material help;

(c) whether the Burmese Government has been requested to cooperate in flushing out the insurgents so that the Indian security forces can deal with them effectively; and

(d) the extent to which the Burmese Government has cooperated with the Indian authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) We have no confirmed reports about insurgents operating in North Eastern States getting arms assistance and training from China or using Burmese territory for transit to China for obtaining weapons and other material help.

(c) and (d) Government have sought the cooperation of the Burmese Government in matters relating to the movement and activities of insurgent groups operating within Burmese territory. Government are satisfied with the attitude of the Burmese Government.

Murder of a priest and a Pakistan trained terrorist

107. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH:
SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is correct that a priest and a Pakistan trained terrorist who had been "debriefed" have been murdered in Punjab (Hindustan Times dated 1-2-1987); and

(b) if so, Government's response to such grim, new developments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Facts are being ascertained from the Government of Punjab and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of textile mills under the control of NTC

108. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to close down certain textile mills under the control of National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details of this regard;

(c) what are the reasons for closing down these textile mills;

(d) how many workers working in these mills are likely to be affected and

(e) what is the manner in which these employees are likely to be absorbed elsewhere or the extent of compensation proposed to be given to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (e) No final decision has been taken to close down any NTC mills so far.

Solution of Punjab Problem

109. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to resume negotiations with Akali leaders on Punjab problem;

(b) whether Government propose to form a high power committee to study the various aspects of the problem for finding a peaceful solution; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) An 11-point Memorandum of Settlement on various Punjab issues had already been signed on 24-7-1985.

(b) and (c) A Group of Ministers headed by Minister of Human Resource Development and consisting of Home Minister and Minister of Communications has been set up to look into various issues in depth.

Formation of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh as one State

110. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh into one State; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up a high-powered commission to look into this, and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM). (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Pakistani infiltrators in Kutch

111. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistani infiltrators are permanently settling down in Kutch;

(b) if so, what is the estimated number thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) There is no information to suggest that Pakistani infiltrators are permanently settling down in the Kutch region of Gujarat. There are standing instructions to the State Governments to check, identify and take necessary action against the infiltrators under the law.